

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of all the claims now in the application (i.e., claims 1-21) is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-21 as being obvious and therefor unpatentable over Roby et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,287,499 in view of Harris U.S. Patent No. 4,209,476. With regard to claim 21, the Examiner indicated that Roby et al. taught an on-line relaxation, or shrinkage of the filament (releasing tension) for recovery (column 4, lines 13-19). Applicant has reviewed this section of the Roby et al. patent and considers that the filament is maintained under tension between the second and third pullers after exiting the annealing station.

Applicant has amended claim 1 and 21 to make it clear that all of the tension is released upon exiting the second puller with the material being immediately cut thereafter. This is discussed in paragraph [0036] of the application.

Neither Roby et al. nor Harris teach that the tension should be completely released prior to cooling. While the third roller of Roby et al. may run at a slower speed than the second roller, it is still pulling the filament and therefore is maintaining tension on the filament which is specifically excluded by the amended claims. Therefore, the combination of Roby et al. and Harris does not teach or suggest the continuous process claimed in which tension is released after the second puller and cooling occurs only in the absence of tension.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he telephone Applicant's attorney at

Application No.: 10/796,233

Docket No.: OSTEONICS 3.0-305 DIV

(908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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